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Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 30, 2004

Dear City and County Officials:

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is moving ahead with implementing regulations to reduce toxic particulate matter (PM) emissions from diesel-fueled commercial and residential waste collection vehicles. Exposure to PM -- the tiny soot particles from diesel engines -- is a health hazard, particularly to children whose lungs are still developing and the elderly who may have other serious health problems. Each year in California, diesel PM contributes to 2,900 premature deaths, 3,600 hospital admissions, 240,000 asthma attacks and respiratory symptoms and 600,000 lost workdays. These numbers illustrate why reducing diesel PM has become one of ARB's most critical challenges.

The new solid waste collection vehicle regulation is particularly effective because it reduces PM concentrations in the heart of residential communities where waste collection trucks frequently make multiple trips on trash pickup day. But while the regulation brings significant clean-air benefits, it also brings cost increases to the state's waste collection companies. Depending on the age and type of trucks in an owner's fleet, implementing the regulation can average from \$3000 to more than \$50,000 per truck. During the debate on the regulation, one of the major issues of concern was who would pay these costs. Since all California residents will enjoy the health benefits of this regulation, the Board felt waste collection companies should not stand alone in shouldering the costs.

That being the case, in passing the regulation, the Board stated it intends and expects municipalities and service providers to work together to amend or renegotiate contracts as needed so service fees reflect the service providers' costs for compliance.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

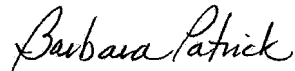
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City and County Officials
April 30, 2004
Page 2

As both elected county officials and ARB Board Members, we urge you to work cooperatively with your local solid waste collection companies to resolve this important issue.



Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier
Board Member



Supervisor Barbara Patrick
Board Member



Barbara Riordan
Board Member



Supervisor Ron Roberts
Board Member